DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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RAYNOLDS & NOURSE, *Proprietors.* OFFICE, QUINCY HALL, BOSTON. S. W. COLE, *Editor.*

WORK FOR THE SEASON.

May comes with its genial warmth and refreshing showers, waking all nature to life and beauty. The earth is clothed with herbage; every plant and tree assumes its beautiful adornments, and the flowers start forth with their fine colors and delightful fragrance. All nature becomes renovated. The animal creation rejoices in the gladsome change; and man, partaking the hue that is around him, revives with nature and acts with new life and energy.

The judicious remarks of our friend Holbrook on spring work, supersede the necessity of our dwelling so extensively on the work for this month, though all we could both say, in filling the whole paper, would not include every particular which claims the busy cultivator in this peculiar month for planting.

Transplanting Trees.—Owing to the cold wet weather, there is much of this business to do yet, and it is better to delay than set when the ground is very wet; but by all means take up the trees and heel them in, to retard their growing. In setting out trees, be very careful to place the roots near the surface, covering them with a few inches of soil. If set deep, they grow slowly; but avoid the other extreme, and cover the roots well, or the wind, when the earth is soft, will displace them. As a remedy against the effects of a hot sun and severe drought, from rather shallow planting, mulch the trees the first year, and the roots will seek their natural depth and support the trees. Dig large deep holes, scattering the sub-soil around upon the ground, and filling the hole nearly full with rich loam. Use no manure in the hole, unless the soil lacks good culture, and then the manure should be thoroughly decomposed, and mixed with the loam. Coarse dressing may be laid around the tree, and it makes good mulching. A good time to transplant evergreens is the very last of May or early in June, just as the new growth has started.

Planting Indian Corn.—In the southern part of New England, corn will generally ripen well, except on low land, if planted the last of May, and in some seasons as late as the tenth of June it ripens well. But in the northern section, especially on frosty land, it should be planted by the tenth or fifteenth of this month, if the land be dry and warm. But as it cannot always be planted in season, from the condition of the soil, or the business of the season, it is important to have varieties suited to the climate, as to time of ripening.

Root Crops.—If we have much rain, moist land will not get sufficiently dry to admit of fine pulverization, till we have warm dry weather, and this condition of soil is essential to good crops and easy culture. On such land it will answer to sow beets, carrots and parsnips the last of this month or very early in June, as drought will not affect the crop, and the growth will continue late in the season; but if the land is very dry, and sowing is delayed till late, the hot sun often destroys the seed, and drought may cut short the crop. On light soils sow as early as from the 10th to the 20th of this month. Subsoiling is a great advantage to root crops, especially to the tap-rooted kinds. We have found in some cases a gain of 50 per cent. by this process, and we have many statements of an increase of 20 or 30 per cent. by this cheap operation; that is cheap compared with the advantages. But any person of common sense, who draws up a long root from a soil ploughed only 6 or 8 inches deep, and sees how crooked and contracted that part is that wormed its way down the substratum, among the pebbles and gravel, and found not room to expand itself, needs no experiment to show that there would be a great advantage in stirring the subsoil, and allowing the roots to descend freely, and draw moisture and nutriment from as great a depth as they will naturally descend in a well prepared soil.

Stock, when turned to pasture, should be furnished with a constant supply of salt, or it should be given as often as twice; for when animals are supplied with salt only once in a week or two they will eat too much, if they can get it.

ROOT CROPS.

Some years ago, a great deal was said in favor of raising roots for stock, and many farmers went into the business to a large extent. They did not all realize their ardent expectations, and some have abandoned raising roots altogether. Others raise them, and with a profit, as they consider.

There is no doubt that the value of root crops has been over-estimated by some, while others consider them unprofitable without having made a fair experiment. Some farmers who are situated near a large market, prefer feeding their cows on Indian meal, shorts, and oil cake, to raising roots for them; and in such places it might be more profitable to raise vegetables for market than to raise roots for cows, while other good food for them may be conveniently obtained at a moderate price.

But in the interior, where meal, gain, oil cake, &c., are higher, we believe that many farmers will find it profitable to raise roots for stock. They are good for working cattle, growing cattle and milch cows; also for horses, sheep, and swine. With roots, young cattle may be fed on coarse fodder, and kept in a thriving condition in winter, and they will be less liable to disease than if fed on dry fodder. Working cattle will be more healthy if allowed a moderate portion of roots. Milch cows fed partially on roots will give more milk, and if the roots are of the right kind the milk will be rich and they will be less liable to disease than when they are fed on other food. Horses are kept in better condition, in winter, when fed partially on roots, instead of wholly on grain and meal, with the exception of hay. Sheep suffer much in winter from being kept so long from the ground, and meal and grain are not good substitutes for green food. Roots are better to keep them in good condition.

Animals are in the most thriving state when feeding on green herbage; and roots afford them a succulent food in winter resembling the green food of summer, or at least it is the best substitute for it.

A great objection to raising root crops is the expense in weeding, and this applies particularly to carrots, from the large number of plants that are necessary. But this objection may be obviated, in a great measure, by beginning in season, and preparing and manuring the ground late in the fall or early in spring, and stirring it occasionally in spring, as the weeds start up, until the time of sowing, and soaking the seeds, and allowing them to remain in a moist state till almost ready to sprout, and then sow on a fine freshly stirred soil, and the plants will start before the weeds, and the weeding will cost but a trifle, compared with the old method. In this way a piece of carrots may be hoed with one-fourth the usual expense.

☞ To discover how many idle men there are in a place, all that's necessary is to set two dogs a fighting.

STEEPS FOR INDIAN CORN.

Seed corn is sometimes soaked in warm water, or some preparation for the purpose of promoting vegetation. Some preparations of a nauseous nature are used as steeps for corn to prevent its being eaten by vermin. And some steeps are used with a view to increase the crop. We have some wonderful stories about the crop being increased 25 per cent. just by the small amount of a preparation absorbed by the seed.

There is but little advantage in soaking corn or any other seed that vegetates readily, for the purpose of forwarding the vegetative process. With hard seeds, like beets, carrots, parsnips, &c., there is a great advantage in steeping the seed.

The statements about raising much larger crops merely by steeping the seed in some fertilizing substance, reminds us of the shrewd remark of the intelligent servant of Lord Kaimes. His lordship remarked to his servant John, he had no doubt that so great improvements would be made in agriculture that a man could carry in his vest pocket manure enough to dress an acre of land. To which John replied, "very likely, and I have no doubt that he could carry the crop in the other pocket."

We have no doubt that there may sometimes be an advantage in using a nauseous steep to save the seed from depredations. But will not the earth and sun extract the offensive substance?

In many cases, seed corn has been destroyed by the use of powerful steeps; therefore they should be used with great caution.

A NEWLY DISCOVERED MANURE.

The St. Vincent Royal Indies Gazette mentions that a gentleman of that island has sent to England a quantity of pozzolona, to have it tested as cement, and was agreeably surprised to learn that the chemist who tested it had declared it to be the best manure that had yet ever been discovered, and that it was far preferable to Guano. The gentleman in question was complimented on having a mine of wealth superior to gold. When it is considered (says the Gazette) that the island abounds in this valuable substance—the best cement, and, as it now appears, the best manure known, we cannot refrain from offering our public congratulations on the recent discovery, which must ere long bring great wealth into the island by supplying them with an article which must be much needed by the sugar growers. Pozzolona from St. Vincent could of course be supplied here much cheaper than Guano, and might in consequence of its cheapness be extensively used.

☞ Women require more sleep than men, and farmers less than those engaged in almost any other occupation. Editors, authors, and artists need more sleep than those of most other professions. The same is true of precocious children.

☞ Wisdom and virtue are the greatest beauty: but it is an advantage to a diamond to be *well set.*

EGYPTIAN WHEAT.

The above cut represents a plant of wheat, such as we cultivated some fifteen years ago, under the name of "Wild Goose Wheat," as it came from grain that was taken from the crop of a wild goose, in the northern part of the State of New York, as it was stated. This grain has also been called "Mummy Wheat," as the seed was said to be taken from a mummy. It has had other names, and other countries have been assigned as the place of its origin. Some years ago this grain was figured in the southern papers as a wonderful variety, and it enabled those who raised it to get up a great humbug and sell it at *five dollars* per head, after it had been tried and condemned in the eastern section of the country.

After we obtained this wheat, we had a thorough experiment made on it, as soon as we could obtain a sufficient quantity, from the few grains we had purchased at an exorbitant price. At first it was promising, and seemed to excel other wheat, but afterwards it generally failed, as not adapted to our climate.

We put this article in as a caution, for it is most time to have another humbug raised on this singular grain. The true name is Egyptian Wheat.

FOWLS.

Fowls that are confined to a small space should have a supply of grass. They may be let out on a grass plat to feed, or sods of grass may be given them. If let out to feed in the latter part of the afternoon, they will generally return to their house without trouble.

When fowls are confined to a narrow space it requires much pains to supply them with all the various kinds of food which they collect when running at large; and without care to supply their wants, they will not be profitable. When roaming as they please, they devour many insects, eat gravel and various kinds of herbage, seeds of various kinds, and many other things which we cannot discriminate, though we look on while they select their food.

For the New England Farmer.

PEAT AND COAL.

Mr. Editor:—It would seem from the accounts of geologists, that we are indebted to vegetation for a considerable proportion of the materials now used for fire. In the peat bogs of Scotland and Ireland, the remains of large trees are very abundant; they must have originally fallen with age, and by daming streams rendered the soil unfit for the support of vegetation, so that large forests fell and were buried under the gradual accumulation of vegetable matter. When the levels of Hatfield Chase were drained, vast numbers of trees of all kinds were found buried under the soil, which were overthrown probably by the Romans in order to drive out the natives who had taken shelter among them. In the masses of peat of Scotland, the pines which have been buried for ages, embalmed in their turpentine, still retain their freshness. Similar remains are found in various parts of England and the United States.

I have a peat bog situated near the Ashuelot River, in this town, where in excavating peat for the compost heap I have often found whole trees of various kinds, embedded in the soil to the depth of ten or twelve feet, together with all their natural appendages, in a perfect state of preservation. On this bog are seen the indisputable marks of successive formations; the oak and the hazle are found in the lowest stratum, and in some parts where at the present day the oak is very small if indeed it grows at all, they are found of large dimensions. This stratum of peat is, I think, little inferior to coal. In the second stratum there is a much greater variety of wood, but the birch and ash are the prevailing kinds, and in the third stratum the greater portion is alder.

Though peat is but little valued in this vicinity where wood is abundant, for the purposes of fuel, yet there are many sections of the country where it is important, and we find in countries where wood has been wasted, so that now it is almost gone, and where the transportation of coal would be expensive, as well as difficult, these remains of ancient forests have been kept, by the arrangement of Providence, as "buried treasure," within the reach of man's wants, but safe from his devastations.

Many of your readers know, I presume, that coal, with the exception of anthracite, is of vegetable origin. Geologists, however, are not agreed on this subject; but in some formations there are evident remains of vegetable matter, and many believe they can trace the successive changes from bithuminated wood to coal. De Sac and others believe that the coal formations are the peat bogs of the ancient world, which had become inundated with sea water. The fossil peat, he says, differs only from coal in not having been mineralized and not having ferruginous masses in the strata above it, and it is believed that the same action of water which changes vegetable matter into peat can in due time produce the further change to bitumen, and that the whole process can be traced from vegetable peat; peat to lignite, and lignite to coal.—Thus it appears that a considerable proportion of mankind are making use of the remains of earlier vegetation, for fuel which has been preserved for their benefit, by the liberality of nature.

In regard to the manner in which peat is converted into charcoal, I am not acquainted, but have often burned large stacks of peat in the same manner wood is burned for that purpose, but without any such result; a hard, cinder-like substance is always formed, which I have found exceedingly rich in fertilizing matter, and which I have often applied in a liquid form to growing crops with good success, increasing their growth and productiveness, in many cases more than one-half, and in all to a considerable degree. I have applied the liquid to almost every variety of crop usually raised by farmers in this vicinity, and under every variety of circumstances, and always with satisfactory results.

My method of preparing calcined peat is by dissolving half a bushel in half a hogshead of water, first pulverising the peat, then stirring the mixture often for several hours; after remaining two or three days, a very dark colored solution is formed, and ready to be applied in watering any plant or tree. Care should be taken that the mixture be not allowed to stand too long, as sulphurated hydrogen is formed, which greatly injures the mixture as well as rendering it very offensive; this I suppose arises from the decomposition of the sulphates in the water and ashes by the vegetable matter; some unburned peat and wood ashes are necessarily contained in the mixture of peat and water, and sufficient to produce that well-known odor common to bad eggs, if allowed to stand for a week or ten days in warm weather. H. Blake.

Keene, N. H., March, 1851.

Remarks.—Our correspondent's article is on a subject of great importance to farmers, and we are pleased with his interesting remarks upon it. We shall be pleased to hear more from him showing the result from his practical application of this valuable fertilizer, which is so abundant in many sections of New England. We should also be happy in hearing from him on any other agricultural subject.

For the New England Farmer.

RENOVATING OLD ORCHARDS.

Friend Cole:—Evelyn upon Renovating Old Orchards is well worthy a careful perusal. Millions of old trees in New England are now "cumberers of the ground." Shall "we dig about and dung them, or cut them down?" is the question. Dig about them, brother farmers; you are morally bound to do so. The *old apple tree* shaded you in childhood, the zephyrs of lovely June and mellow autumn were perfumed by it for your pleasure; first its flowers, then its rich fruit pleased your olfactories and your eye and palate; the sweet songster warbled from its boughs, it filled the big pitcher, the fruit dish, the apple dumplin, the rich pie, preserves and sauces; if you had one spark of poetic fire you would have long since sung of its beneficence. It's a superior theme to "Old Straw-hat," "Arm-chair" or "Oaken-bucket." The old tree has fed your fathers, perhaps your grand-fathers, and it will you and your children, if you will not indolently kill it by famine. The old apple tree reminds us of the loved ones that are gone, that with us walked beneath its shade, or shared its bounties by our fireside.

I cannot, I will not, cut down the old venerable trees planted by my fathers till I first try to renovate them; feed them as they have fed me; this is but evenhanded justice. Will it pay? asks one.

Yes, it will pay better than to plant a nursery and wait seven years with a watering mouth for the first blow bud; renovate the old in justice to our fathers, and plant the young in justice to posterity, we may be benefited by both, but certainly by the *old first*. There are several ways to renovate old trees besides tilling. Spread around them straw, brakes, ferns, thistles, flags, leaves of forest trees, stuff too coarse for fodder, shavings or chip manure, any thing to kill the grasses and retain the moisture. Irrigation is excellent; the waste from road-sides, the suds from the wash-room of one family would improve many trees. If you attempt renovation by tilling, cut not the roots or crop the land of more richness than you impart to it, or your improvement will be very temporary. Pasturing with sheep or swine is very beneficial; drive stakes about the trunk to prevent their being marred by knawing or rubbing. Take off not only all the dead limbs and remove rot with a gouge and fill the wounds with some suitable substance; clay mortar does well, horse dung and clay, &c., but at a proper time reduce the old top.

I once had wonderful success with a tree so far gone that it seemed worthless, except to experiment upon. I cut off all the top except a few twigs on the stubs of the branches; I left the stubs well spread; I then on my passage down from the tree stripped all the bark upon the branches and trunk, except about three inches of the upper end of each branch, the better to aid the sprouting of new branches; peel about the middle of June to the first of July, if I mistake not; at any rate, when the sliver is grown, which must not be disturbed or broken, neither should it be violently scorched by sun, or washed by rains; dull cloudy weather is the best. If hot, protect by the shade of a few tall forest bushes in leaf, stick them on the southern side so far off that their leaves will not disturb the sliver. This old tree had a perfectly smooth bark come upon it, the top is vigorous; at the age of three years and perhaps two, your branches may be grafted with success; this mode of cleansing is perfect. I have just been thinning out and pruning it, and a more perfect graft top I never have seen. The outside of the tree and its top are thrifty as a nursery tree, yet the inside of the tree was going to decay before peeling. How it may bear remains to be seen; but, I think in a few years it will bear me many bushels of fine Baldwins; if so, you shall hear from me. I intend to try several more the present season. I shall try the most worthless first, and spread all the small boughs and leaves, bark, &c., to rot under the tree. Some others, after breaking the turf, I shall yard my sheep a few nights around each, enclosed by four lengths of light portable fence easily secured at corners. Try it, brother farmers; perform the operation of peeling about the longest days in June, dock off the top first, and then peel carefully as you come down. Select cloudy days when the sun does not scorch. It is a more effectual way to cleanse than washing Try it on a small scale first; I have only told you of my success. Try it, and let us have the results, in three years from the stripping process. Your scions may be grafted into healthy and vigorous stocks, and their growth will be vigorous, so that in three years the top will be larger than at six years, when grafted into old limbs, so that nothing is lost as to time, and much vexation saved in the way of seeing your scions perish and decay at two or three years' stinted growth.

As the case too often is when you graft into old black-hearted limbs, far better that the old tree die under the operation of skinning than to die after you have grafted and waited several years for the result. Evelyn is correct; never graft till the old tree feels thrift from your care. It cannot bear such an operation when prostrated by famine. Crops of apples impoverish the tree; the best bearers first fail and decay.

Many of the choicest blessings of Heaven are given us upon strict principles of reciprocity, thus teaching man that industry tends to his physical and mental health and happiness. If we would be fed by our *trees*, our *fields*, or our *animals*, we must feed them in turn. JESSE SMART.

Troy, April 5th.

For the New England Farmer.

PROFIT OF FOWLS.

MR. COLE:—As much is said in these days respecting the profitableness and unprofitableness of keeping poultry, it is well sometimes to post up the books, and ascertain how the account stands. One of my neighbors, Andrew Chapman, a very correct man, has done this. He has kept an account of debt and credit with his poultry, commencing Feb. 1st, 1850, and ending Feb. 1st, 1851. Being aware of the fact, and knowing that any statement coming from him might be relied on with confidence, I felt very solicitous to know how the account stood; and called on him for that purpose. His son, a very worthy man, who took the principal charge of the turkeys, furnished me with the following account. Thinking that it might be of some service to many of your readers, and perhaps interesting to more, I immediately determined to forward it to you, for insertion in the New England Farmer.

The account of his poultry establishment for one year, ending Feb. 1st, 1851 stands thus·

Poultry Establishment.	*Dr.*
51 Hens and 3 Crowers,	$16,50
3 Gesee,	4,00
9 Turkeys,	12,00
90 bushels of Corn,	58,58
	$91,08
Contra.	*Cr.*
30 Hens, including Crowers,	$9,50
3 Geese,	4,00
9 Turkies,	12,00
2692 Eggs sold,	32,07
90 Turkeys sold,	101,29
1 Goose,	1,00
Amount of Hens sold,	14,73
	$174,59
	91,08
Balance,	$83,51

Not included in the account, 4 Turkeys used by family; 1 Goose, do. do.; also, dunghill Fowls and Eggs, and several loads of manure.

Leaving a net balance of $83,51 on an investment of $91,08, which is equal to an interest of 91 2-3 per cent. for the capital employed; and had the value of the items above enumerated been placed in the account the profits would have equaled an interest of 100 per cent. on the capital.

The number of eggs laid were 2692, not including those used in the family, and the few that were set. The number sold each month and the price per dozen were as follows: Feb. 8 doz. at 14 cents; March 36 1-2 doz., 12 1-2 cents; April 53 doz., 15 cents; May 25 doz., 14 cents: June 33 1-2 doz., 14 cents; July 30 doz., 16 cents; August 17 doz., 18 cents; September 2 doz., 17 cents; October 4 doz., 16 1-3 cents; November 6 doz., 16 cents; Dec. 1 doz., 20 cents.

The hens, after the principal laying season was over, were killed at different intervals until fall or winter and marketed. This accounts for the small number of eggs during the latter months of the year, and no doubt for some of the profits.

The 95 turkeys raised were all of the first litter. Not one of the hens was allowed to sit the second time, a second crop of turkeys being considered unprofitable. The turkeys were kept till about the 1st of Jan., and sold at 11 cents per pound.

The number of chickens raised was only 15, the hens not being permitted to set; and the geese raised only 2 goslings. Notwithstanding this, we do not recollect of having seen any published account of the same amount (where *high prices* were not paid) that exceeds this. P.

North Stonington, Ct., March 3d, 1851.

For the New England Farmer.

BARK LICE ON FRUIT TREES.

Mr. Cole:—You will recollect that I wrote to you for a remedy for the bark lice on apple trees, last spring. I then washed a part of two trees, one with soap and water, the other with strong ley, but without any apparent effect, except the bark of the one washed with ley has a brown appearance, and I think it is injured; these lice are increasing on my trees, and in this neighborhood to an alarming extent; the apples on some of my trees were quite full of them; they appear to infest the grafted more than the natural fruit. Will you ask through the columns of the Farmer for a remedy, and oblige yours, &c., Chs. Moody.

York, Me., April 1, 1851.

INSTINCT IN A BIRD.

Once when travelling in Tennessee, Wilson was struck with the manner in which the habits of the pennated grouse are adapted to its residence on dry, sandy plains. One of them was kept there in a cage, having been caught alive in a trap. It was observed that the bird never drank, and seemed rather to avoid the water; but a few drops one day falling upon the cage, and trickling down the bars, the bird drank them with great dexterity and an eagerness that showed she was suffering with thirst. The experiment was then made whether she would drink under other circumstances, and though she lived on dry Indian corn, the cup of water in the cage was for a whole week untasted and untouched; but the moment water was sprinkled on the bars, she drank it eagerly as before. It occurred to him at once, that in the natural haunts of the bird, the only water it could procure was from the *drops of rain and dew.*

☞ There are three companions with whom a man should always keep on good terms—his wife, his stomach, and his conscience.

For the New England Farmer.

THE OLD APPLE TREE.

We venerate thee, good old tree;
Thou had'st our father's care,
And to our childhood's happiness
Thou gav'st a bounteous share.

How oft we've breathed thy rich perfume,
When dewdrop's crystal show'rs
Invite the humming-bird and bee
To taste thy nectar'd flow'rs.

Thou fill'st the bowl with Russetts rare,
That graced our winter hearth;
We grasp't with joy the welcome store,
The happiest souls on earth.

But since we've grown to manhood's prime
We see thy sure decay;
Limb after limb presents no green
On each returning May.

Oft filthy vermin taint thy skin,
Few songsters seek thy shade;
O, is it man that thou hast fed
That would thee thus degrade?

We'll free thee from these withered limbs,
And give thy rootlets food;
We'll strip from thee that lousy coat,
And dress thee clean and good.

We'll give to thee a Baldwin top,
A Nonsuch or a Sweeting.
In June and Autumn thou shalt shine,
With youthful trees competing.

For thou wilt pay thy master well
For ev'ry care bestowed;
Each season of the flow'rs and fruit,
He sees thee richly clothed. Smart.

TRANSPLANTING TREES.

In taking up trees for transplanting, regard should always be had to their size, and a due proportion should be preserved between the size of the tree and the amount of root attached. A deficiency of root may be partially but not wholly compensated by a diminution or entire removal of the top; but there should always be root enough to supply nourishment to the body, (which, if large, requires the more to sustain it,) and top enough to digest it. A deficiency of top, however, is less fatal, especially in the early part of the season, than a deficiency of root; for if there be enough of the latter, the tree will readily make enough of the former as fast as it shall be needed; but if there be a deficiency of root, although the tree may live and even grow for a time on account of its innate, vital energies, yet it will probably die before the close of the season.

It is for this reason that many trees that "start well" are often found to die in the latter part of the summer, notwithstanding all other circumstances seem to favor their preservation. It is a mistake to suppose that if a tree once begins to grow all risk is at an end. The first season will not always decide; for if that shall be peculiarly favorable, a small root may sustain a tree through it; but the consequence of a small root may be a corresponding small top, and of both, a dead strip running the whole length of the tree occupying, perhaps, one-third, or one-half of its whole circumference. Some trees have a much greater tenacity of life than others, and hence may grow with a much smaller root, or even with none at all. But with these exceptions there should always be a direct proportion between the size of a tree and its root, and an inverse

proportion between the root, and the tenacity of life; —i. e., the less the tenacity of life the greater should be the root.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

PROFITABLE COWS.

Mr. H. D. Rood, of East Sheffield, in this county, sends us the amount of the butter and cheese he has made the past season from twelve cows—three of them three year old heifers.

1957 pounds of cheese, which was sold for 7 1-2 cents per lb. - - - - -	$371,77
4379 1-2 lbs. of butter, 18c. - - -	248,31
The whey Mr. R. values at $3,50 per cow,	12,00
The calves, and milk and cream used in a family of six persons, - - - -	18,00
Making a total of - -	$680,08
This divided among the twelve cows, gives for each, - - - - - -	$56,67

Several things worthy of note are connected with this statement.

In the first place, the cows themselves. We have no knowledge as to the size, breed, or any of that thing, but one fact stands out in bold relief—they were GOOD COWS. In some conversation with Mr. Rood two years since, he spoke in the highest terms of Guenon's criterion for determining a good cow—the escutcheon marks; that the knowledge he had obtained from Guenon's book, was worth hundreds of times the cost of it. We should like to know whether this lot of cows was selected on this principle.

Again. There is something besides cows here. We have not the pleasure of knowing Mrs. Rood, or whether there is such a lady, but somebody has taken very good care of the milk after the cows had done their part, or the cheese would not have brought 7 1-2 cents per lb.

We add three questions for the boys and girls in our farmer's families to cipher out this summer.

1st. How much more would twelve such cows cost than twelve poor ones?

2d. How much more would it cost a year to keep them?

3d. How much more would it cost to make the butter and cheese so as to bring 7 1-2 and 18 cents per lb. than to make it so that the buyer would get shaved if he paid 5 for the cheese and 12 1-2 for the butter?—*Culturist and Gazette.*

MANAGEMENT OF SOILS.

A soil would never get exhausted, if managed with skill, but would continue to improve in depth and fertility in proportion to the industry bestowed upon it. The food of plants, it is true, may be exhausted from the soil by a repetition of cropping with any one family of plants, if we neglect the application of such fertilizers as may have been taken from the soil by that family; but no part of the growing season is required for the soil to rest, or lie fallow, if judiciously managed by a successive varying of the crops, or by supplying to them such food as may be a compensation for what has been taken off by the previous crop. The first object to be attained for securing a certain and profitable return of produce from the soil must be *the rough drainage;* the next object is, *breaking into the subsoil* to the desired depth—not without first considering whether it is proper and profitable to shift or turn up the subsoil at once to the influence of the atmosphere, or whether it is best to break into it well first, by shifting the surface soil, and allowing the subsoil to remain and receive—first the beneficial influence of the atmosphere, and then—at the trenching, a portion of the subsoil may be safely stirred up and mixed with the surface soil; this practice continued for every succeeding crop, will establish a healthy fertilizing surface soil to any desired depth.

If repeated stirrings of the surface are adopted, according to the nature of the soil and weather, every growing crop will continue in healthy luxuriance, without ever suffering by receiving injury from too much moisture, drought, or frost. In addition, by constantly scarifying, hoeing, and forking the surface soil, not only obnoxious insects and their larvæ are expelled, but weeds would never make their appearance, much less have a chance of committing their accustomed robbery of the soil and crops. Besides, by such repeated stirring, the soil is always prepared, sweet and healthy, for succeeding crops—no mean consideration, either when we observe the loss of time and produce occurring to such a ruinous extent in some localities, by allowing weeds to rob and choke the growing crops, and to shed their seeds, productive of a progeny similarly injurious to the crops next in rotation.

The application of manure is most essential, and may be applied most beneficially when the soil is established in a healthy condition, and maintained thus by a constant attention to surface-stirring Yet the application of manure is a secondary consideration; for though it may be very liberally applied, and with considerable expense, yet, without first insuring the healthiness of the soil, much property and labor will be sacrificed.—*Cottage Gardener.*

NEW ENGLAND SOCIETY

FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF DOMESTIC POULTRY.

At the annual meeting of this society at the State House, on Wednesday evening, the following officers were chosen for the coming year:—*President*, Moses Kimball of Boston. *Vice Presidents*—Massachusetts—J. C. Bennett of Plymouth, G. P. Burnham of Melrose; Rhode Island—W. S. King and J. Giles of Providence; Maine—A H. Gilman, Moses Sweat; New Hampshire—H. C. Parker, C. H. Tufts; Vermont—S. E. Robbins, N. T. Sheafe; Connecticut—C. H. Pendleton, S. O. Hatch. *Treasurer*—H L. Devereux of Dedham. *Recording Secretary*—J. C. Moore of Boston. *Corresponding Secretary*—Wm. Plummer. *Trustees*—Eben Wight, B. W. Balch, Frank Howe, John Russell, T. E. Chickering, A. A. Andrews, E. G. Kelley, Francis Blake, Edward Carnes, Jr.

The meeting elected the above by a nearly unanimous vote. A resolution expressive of thanks to the late President, Col. Samuel Jaques, of Ten Hills Farm, for his exertions during his past term of office, was unanimously passed. The Treasurer's report shows a balance in favor of the Society of $202.—*Traveller.*

WORLD'S FAIR.—The emperor of Russia has commissioned his agents to purchase every model at the Great Exposition, which may be useful to Russian manufactures. A letter from St. Petersburg announces that the emperor intends to spend 10,000,000 silver rubles in such purchases.

BROOM CORN.

Statement presented to the Franklin Agricultural Society, by applicants for premiums.

I have a field consisting of 173 rods of land, on which was raised a crop of broom corn the summer past. It was a dry piece of upland mowing, having been manured once in two or three years for a great many years previous to ploughing, which was done early in the spring of 1848, and planted to Indian corn. The corn was ashed immediately after planting, in the following manner. Four rows were ashed, and four left without ashes. I think there were 7 or 8 bushels of ashes put on in the manner described, and there was a manifest difference in the size of the corn throughout the season, the ashed corn being much the largest. I cannot say definitely, but should judge there were from 40 to 45 bushels to the acre. It was ploughed again this year on the 28th of May, and planted on the 23d with 12 bushels ashes in the hill. Finished scraping it the 9th of November. The whole weight of brush 1156 lbs., or 1075 to the acre. The seed was cleaned the 22d and 23d of November, and there was 91 1-2 bushels.

Brush contracted in August at 6 cents per lb. Seed worth probably 25 cents a bushel.

VALUE OF LABOR.

Ploughing,	$1,80
Planting,	1,75
Hoeing three times,	8,25
Harvesting,	3,84
Scraping corn,	3,79
Cleaning seed,	1,58
Horse harrowing,	1,12
Total,	$22,13

JAMES CHILDS.

Deerfield, Nov. 26th.

This certifies that we, the undersigned, have raised the present season on two acres and seven rods of land 2075 pounds of broom corn, the land being the same we leased of D. N. Carpenter, April 1, 1850, and also the same bought by David Wait, of Greenfield, of Asa Stebbins, of Deerfield, at a cost of $25 per acre.

The expense of cultivation was as follows:

Rent of land,	$11,31
Ploughing,	2,00
Ashes,	5,00
Seed for planting,	50
Expense of planting,	4,00
Hoeing—three times,	12,00
Harvesting,	4,00
Scraping seed,	10,62
Total,	$49,43
Broom Corn sold at $6 per cwt.,	$124,00
120 bushels seed,	37,50
Whole amount of crop,	$161,00
Whole amount of expenses,	49,43
Balance in our favor,	$112,57

The above land was sowed with oats and clover seed in 1849, and planted with Indian corn in 1848, with manure in the hill. We ploughed and planted about the 20th of May, 1850, on ashes, without manure or plaster.

Respectfully submitted,

S. G. DUNCAN.
ELISHA WELLS, JR.

From the Boston Journal.

POTATO ROT.

To His Excellency the Governor, and the Honorable Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts:

GENTLEMEN:—The undersigned most respectfully begs leave to submit to your careful consideration the following outline of his plan for the cure of the "Potato Disease," so called.

It is well known that the esculent tuber, known as the potato, is indigenous in America.

By long cultivation it has been brought to a high state of perfection, as it is usually termed, differing very matirially from its original stock. It is confidently believed, by the subscriber, that it has passed the height of its perfection, and changed in accordance with fixed laws which govern the vegetable kingdom, not only so as to furnish different varieties under different circumstances of climate, soil, &c., but also in some degree, at least, in elementary constituents, or in the relations of its principles, or both. The most effectual method of remedying the evil, it is believed, is to resort to the original indigenous seed and commence anew. While such a procedure is strongly recommended, the following course is confidently submitted as the most sure and successful manner of preventing the disease with the present seed.

Let ground charcoal and sulphate of lime—(gypsum, or plaster of Paris) be mixed in the proportion of two parts of the former to one of the latter, and used on the land according to the soil.

On land which is rich in nitrogenized matter, one quart of the above compound should be put in each hill at planting; on light, sandy soil, one half this quantity, or even less may be used.

From ten to twenty days before the potatoes ripen, let the vines be pruned of half their branches, and let a handful of the compound be thrown on each hill.

Of course the best seedlings of the later varieties should be selected and planted late, so as to ripen after the earlier fall rains. When the plant is matured, the potatoes should be dug and put into barrels or bins, as usual, and enough of the compound should be intermingled to fill all the principal crevices between them; this may be used the following year at the time of planting.

In the absence of charcoal, peat, tan or other carbonaceous substances may be used, and in the absence of gypsum, (sulphate of lime) copperas (sulphate of iron) or the pyrites of iron, may be used to advantage, or any other substance which yields sulphuric acid to ammonia.

The above is believed to be the only efficient course for preventing the present evil. It is founded upon philosophical principles, after great inquiry into the principal facts connected with potato growing, and is found successful by actual experiment.

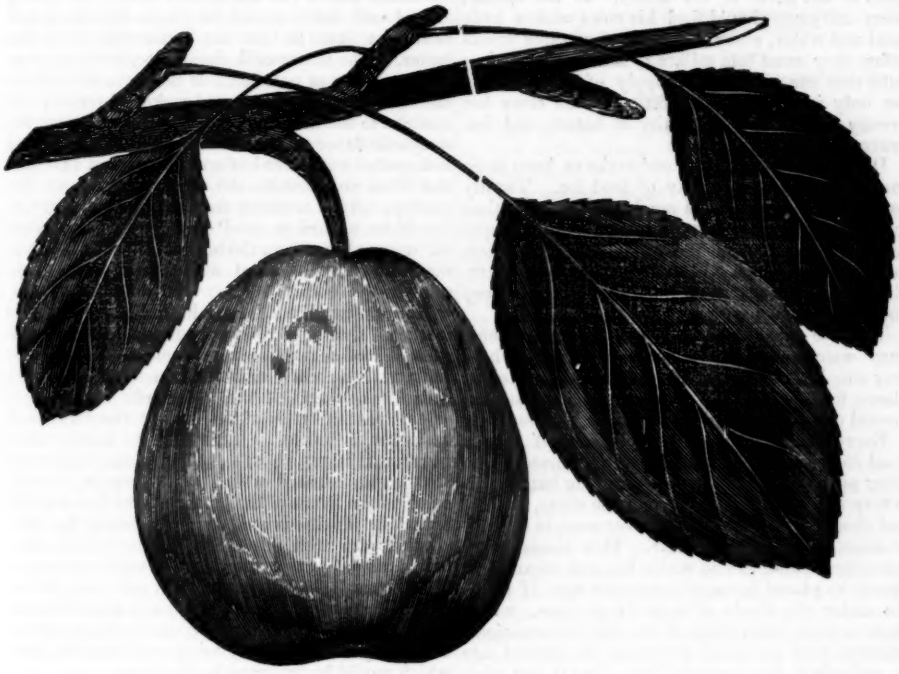
It is based upon the fact that the potato receives nitrogen both from the earth and atmosphere in an undue quantity, and requires the presence of absorbing and neutralizing substances.

In the further prosecution of the claim for the reward offered by the Legislature on this subject, the subscriber will take an early occasion to set forth and illustrate the matter in a more extended manner.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOSHUA F. HATCH.

Dorchester, April 2d, 1851.



BUFFUM PEAR.

This pear was raised by Mr. David Buffum, of Newport, R. I., from the seed of the St. Michael. It resembles its parent in quality when it comes to its highest state of perfection. The Buffum is distinguished for great growth, production and hardiness, and is one of the very best pears for general orchard culture. Though the quality varies almost from first to second rate, it is a handsome pear, generally of good quality, and sells well in the market.

This pear is of an upright growth, and it forms a very beautiful tree. It often bears so abundantly that it is necessary to reduce the fruit one-half by thinning, and then it will yield a large crop. As the foreign pears of high quality are very delicate, and often fail, it would be well for cultivators to turn their attention more to our native hardy varieties, on which we may rely for a crop. It may be well for amateurs to cultivate their hundreds of varieties of delicate foreign pears, as they have time and money to spend in this way to gratify their taste, and if they do not get half fruit enough for their own use, others need not complain; but the cultivator who raises fruit for profit, will find it for his advantage to prefer our best native varieties generally.

The size of the Buffum pear is medial; the form long-obovate, the color yellow, with specks and patches of red and russet in the sun; the stem short and thick, in a slight cavity; calyx small, open, in a small basin; flesh white, melting, tender, juicy, with a fine spicy flavor. Ripens in October.

For the New England Farmer.

DIRECTIONS FOR MAKING AND PRESERVING BUTTER.

Mr. Cole:—The best farms for making butter are those that lie fair to the sun, where the feed is sweet and of the best quality. Butter made from good sweet feed, will be of good color and of superior quality to that made from feed from pasturing that lies on the north side of a hill, where the sun shines but very little. The land is cold and wet and the feed is sour and of poor quality, and the butter made from it will be light colored and of inferior quality to that made from good rich sweet feed. Dairymen should have plenty of good clear water, where the cows can have free access to it at all times. When cows are obliged to wade into the mud for water, and stand and drink where there is but a scanty supply, and drop their excrements in it, they are obliged to drink an impure mixture that greatly effects the butter.

Cows should not be allowed to lie in close yards, in very warm weather; they should be returned to the pasture, or to some convenient place where they have a good clean place to lie, and fresh air. When cows lie in wet and muddy yards, there will be more or less dirt fall from the cows into the milk, while milking, which gives the butter a very unpleasant flavor. All kinds of feed that are of a strong nature, such as turnips, and onion-tops, or any vegetable that has

a strong flavor, ought to be avoided, for it is injurious to the flavor of the butter. In the spring, every dairyman should feed his cows with a little meal and water, every day, for two or three weeks before they come into milking, and from that time until they can get a good supply of grass. This not only improves the condition of the cows but greatly increases the quantity of butter, and improves its quality.

Dairymen should never undertake to keep more cows than they have plenty of feed for. Twenty cows, well fed, will yield much greater profit than forty poorly kept. Every farmer should be very particular to select such cows as give the richest milk and that which will make good yellow butter. Every one knows it is no more expensive to keep good cows than it is to keep poor ones.

To have good cows and plenty of good feed, pure water, comfortable barns in winter, where they can be kept dry and warm, and good clean places for them in the summer, is the first step toward carrying on the dairy business successfully.

Every dairyman should supply himself with a good convenient dairy-house, which is used for no other purpose, in the season for making butter; this is very important. For that purpose alone, the best and cheapest plan that I have ever seen, is to build of stone, laid in lime mortar. This almost every ingenious farmer can do within his own means. It should be placed in some convenient spot, if possible under the shade of some large trees, where there is good circulation of air, and if convenient, where a good stream of water can be carried into it, as high as the upper shelves; then if you wish to fix your milk-room so that you can set the pans of milk in water, in the hottest weather, it can be done with little extra expense; and it will greatly improve the quantity and quality of the butter. It is done by making the shelves of good boards, and having the ends well secured from expansion or contraction, by putting good wide cleats at each end, and then put a strip of board all round the edge of the shelves; have them placed one above another around the milk-room, and let the water in at the top of one end and carry it to the other end, then let it down to the other shelf by a small lead pipe, and so let it pass back and forward through the whole, and pass off at the bottom.

The shelves should be placed at a good distance apart, and out from the wall so that the air can circulate around and between them. The cream will rise much better than it will in confined air. The dairy-room should be well ventilated, so that it can be aired at pleasure, and it should be kept thoroughly cleansed, so there will be no unpleasant smell about the milk room. It should be kept as sweet and clean as any lady's parlor.

If milk is kept in cellars where there are decayed vegetables, and old cider-barrels, or filth of any kind, it injures the butter very much. In the first place there will not be so much cream before the milk will sour, and what does rise is of an inferior quality.

The cream should be skimmed off while the milk is sweet, and care should be taken to drain off the milk from the cream when it is skimmed, for if it is allowed to sour and go to curd it will remain in the butter, in little white streaks, and render it very unsaleable. Cream should be churned while it is sweet and cool; then the butter will come hard, and the butter-milk can be extracted with much less trouble than when it comes soft. After the butter comes the butter-milk should be turned off and cold water should be put in the churn and churned a little to take the butter-milk from the butter. The butter-milk should be got out with as little working as possible. If butter is worked too much, it breaks the grain and makes it greasy, and it sticks to the knife when it is cut; and it also destroys the flavor. The butter-milk may be squeezed and spatted out instead of working with a machine that cuts and breaks the grain and injures the quality. After washing the butter in the water, it should be washed in good strong brine, that takes the water all out from the butter. If water is left in the butter it will turn it white, where the drops stand.

Butter should not be too highly salted for this market. One pound of salt and four ounces of pulverized loaf sugar to sixteen pounds of butter is enough, if the butter-milk is all out, which it should be before salting. If the butter-milk is left in, it will immediately sour, and injure the flavor and quality of the butter. If butter is to be kept over summer, it is not advisable to put in the sugar; but if it is to be used within a few weeks, it adds much to the flavor of the butter. The best salt for butter is Turks Island, and it should be well washed and well dried, and then ground. In a neighborhood where there are several dairymen, that want salt for butter, they can get their salt all ready at the same time, and appoint some day and notify the miller and have it ground all at once.—Then they will avoid any mixture of meal or flour, which would be injurious to the butter.

After the butter is salted it should be set in a cool place and stand twenty-four hours, and then worked over lightly, and packed solid into the tub. You should be very particular to have the butter packed very tight in the tub, as it keeps much better and looks and tastes much superior to that packed loosely. It has been the practice of some dairy-women to put salt between the layers; this should not be done; it only injures the butter. When you have not butter enough to fill the tub at a time, it is better to keep a large tub of nice brine, made by boiling a quantity of salt in water, having more salt than will dissolve; then pour it off and let it settle perfectly clear, and put into your large tub with the undissolved salt. When your butter is ready for packing, drop it into the tub of pickle and let it remain until you have enough to fill your tub at once. Then the tub should be filled within three-fourths of an inch of the top; have a cloth cut to fit the inside of the tub to cover the butter; be careful not to have it come over the edge, for if it does, it will draw all the pickle out of the butter, which will cause it to grow rancid.

As soon as the tub is filled with butter, and the cloth well fitted on, cover it with fine salt, with a little water mixed enough to make a hard crust. The tub should be filled up to the cover with this, and then have the cover put on tight and kept on, and this will exclude the air from the butter and keep it perfectly sweet. There should be a bench, set at least one foot high, and one or two feet from the wall, to set the tubs of butter on, where they can be kept dry and clean. If the tubs are allowed to stand on the bottom of the cellar, they will become more or less dirty and mouldy, which injures their appearance very much.

The tubs should be made of spruce or white ash

timber, cut in the fall or in winter before the sap starts. It should be cut green, and the staves should be shaved out to a proper thickness. Then have them boiled in three or four waters. This will take out the taste of the wood, which is very injurious to the butter. The boiling seasons the wood, so that it can be worked in a few days after. The tub should be made of all heart stuff; if there is any sap left on the staves or bottom, the pickle will all leak out; even if there is not more than a half of an inch wide in a tub, and it will spoil the butter. When you are making maple sugar, if you can store your sap in your butter tubs, there is nothing more convenient, and that will take out all the taste of the wood better than any other process. I have known them to be filled a few times with hot sap or syrup, after filling them a few times with cold sap, which does the work more effectually.

When the sugar season is over, fill the tubs with salt that you intend for your cattle through the summer; then fill them with water, and let them soak with salt and water until they are perfectly saturated with salt. Then the tub will not take salt from the butter next the staves, which keeps the butter perfectly sweet and it retains the color. But if the butter is put into the tubs, without their being thoroughly cleansed or salted, the butter will often spoil all around the edge of the tub; and often injure the credit of the dairy.

To carry on a dairy successfully, it is of great importance to have a farm well adapted to the work, and the dairy-house well-arranged in every particular, both for comfort and convenience; and to have first rate cows, and plenty of good rich and sweet feed for them; with a good, comfortable and convenient place for them, where they can be kept warm and dry in the winter; and clean and comfortable yard in the summer, with a good supply of good pure water; and a trough of salt where they can have free access to it at all times. In this way, you will avoid over doses of salt and water, which is injurious; but sufficient quantities are indispensable.

Ice should not be used, if it can be avoided, for it is very injurious to butter.

Yours truly,

FORMERLY A BUTTER DEALER
IN F. H. MARKET.

REMARKS.—We commend the foregoing valuable article to the attentive perusal of dairyists, for it treats on some subjects that are neglected by writers on butter-making. As damp dairies are injurious to butter, it is of great importance to keep up good ventilation when water is let into the dairy to cool the milk. It will be a new idea to many that the use of ice will injure butter, but it is a well established fact. It will not only effect its texture, but its color also, as it will bleach out its yellow hue.

BEAUTIFYING THE HOMESTEAD.—We claim it to be the duty of every man who is a farmer to plant fruit and ornamental trees, to cultivate and grow the vine, as well as all useful vegetables; to beautify and adorn his grounds and garden with flowers, plants and shrubbery, and so arrange his yards and grounds as to give his habitation as Eden-like an appearance as possible. Should our farmers be thus true to themselves, and dutiful to nature, then with truth, of our country it might be said, in the language of the poet, 'tis

"The land of the myrtle, the cypress and vine,
Where all but the spirit of man is divine."

For the New England Farmer.

IS HE BLIND?

Many are the circumstances which constrain us, in view of the actions of men, to ask the question, "Is he blind!"

There stands a father, in the presence of his several sons, complaining of his occupation, and bitterly lamenting that he had not, when a young man, been given to some trade or some mechanical occupation. And what is the cause of this complaint? Why, he says he cannot make a living by cultivating the earth. And he does not shrink from exerting all the influence a farther has power to exert over his sons, to make them despise the very calling which was honored by the first command which the Creator addressed to man. Is not that farther blind? Does he know,—does he consider, that he is influencing his sons to choose some occupation which shall be altogether and entirely uncertain?

There are many men in the land who are blind to their own errors of action in the affairs of life, and blindly do they contribute by their influence to the hazards, if not to the ruin, of their children.—In no way are more young men directed in the way of sorrow and disappointment, and perhaps the way of crime also in the end, than by the influence of those fathers who are so often heard complaining of the difficulty of making a profit by farming, and who, indeed, are not farmers in a just and true sense, but only men who have farms, which they do not cultivate like men of true understanding.

I can look about me in every direction and see men who have farms but are not farmers, whatever they may be called. It is true, they call themselves farmers. But would people be willing to call a man a carpenter because he could use a handsaw enough to cut a board in two? It would certainly be improper. And is that man a farmer who only knows how to perform certain formal acts which are necessary to farming?

Suppose that a man says he is a carpenter, and we find he cannot decide the difference between the different kinds of building materials which ought to be used in building a house; shall we be disposed to call him a carpenter? And why should a man be regarded as a farmer, merely because he calls himself a farmer; while he knows little or nothing of the properties and powers of the various soils, in using which he is to produce certain results in the form of absolute crops? Is he a farmer, while he is so ignorant of the uses of his farm?

Let a man come to us with the pretence that he is a painter, who is ignorant of the principles of compounding colors to produce certain desired shades or tints, and knows not how to prepare his oils, and mix his oils and paints to make a body or give a gloss; we would consider it all wrong to class him with painters; and especially if he thought to apply his paints to a floor or other part with a mop, because in earlier times persons had sometimes applied their paint with a piece of cloth, while the paint was perhaps mixed with skim milk instead of oil. And why should a man who knows not how to compost manure so as to raise a cabbage, a turnip, or even a hill of beans, be called a farmer?—True, most men raise more or less of such things,

who are called farmers. But it is not because they know how to prepare a compost that will certainly effect it.

A farmer is one who knows the properties of a farm, and what may be effected by their application; and who also makes the application according to knowledge, not blindly.

What should we think, if we saw a man who pretends to be a farmer, go into the forest and cut down a branching tree, and then sharpen a stump of a limb to plough with, while he used a part of the main stock for a beam? This was the kind of instrument used in ancient times as a plough; but should we think a man a farmer who would be satisfied with such as instrument to use as a rooter of the ground? I think it would not be proper. Nevertheless, we see many men about us, who from day to day may be seen at work with the most worthless and wretched tools, which never did good work. Such a man works two days to get a piece of the ground ploughed, which he might have done in one with a good plough. Then he must harrow it, and he has got twice as much work to do upon it as would have been necessary if it had been ploughed well. His harrow is as bad as his plough, and what could be easily done in one day with a good harrow will take him two days. In addition to all this loss, is the heavy labor of his team, in ploughing with a plough that goes with difficulty through the ground. Then the crop is but half a crop, because the ground was not half prepared. Now a little calculation will show us that it costs such a man four times as much, wear of team and all considered, as it would cost with good tools. Then he raises but half a crop. In harvesting we may find him again wasting time, to make a saving by using worthless tools which ought to have been cast off.

Such a man complains that there is no profit in farming. Truth says that he is no farmer.

We look at him again. What kind of seed does he sow and plant? Why, his economy is to avoid outrages; and he sows and plants such remnants of earlier crops as he has. His products, then, are of second rate quality, and of course quite unsalable. Poor man! He finds farming a very unprofitable calling! He says so, in hearing of his sons; and they long to get into some other kind of business.

We look at his farm, and the fruit trees are moss-covered, the border of his field has become pernicious hedges, and we ask why these things are so. He tells us that his sons take no pleasure in farming, and he is not able to hire and make a living for himself.

There is no young and thriving orchard, no growing pear, cherry, peach or plum tree; for trees cost so much that he could not think of buying them.

Now I ask, "Is he blind?" He thinks he is a farmer, and that there is no profit in farming. I think he is no farmer, but a living, walking, and unconscious *mistake*.

When I shall have learned what a farm is composed of, what use may best be made of it, what tools will work it best, and what trees, plants, and seeds will afford the most profitable crops, and then use that knowledge, I shall be able to report myself a farmer, and say whether a man can live by farming.

It is probably true that in the State of New Hampshire, and perhaps so in all the eastern States, there are a large majority of farms which do not produce enough to pay for the labor spent upon them, the taxes assessed, and give six per cent. profit on the valuation of the farms. But why is it so? Is the soil guilty of ingratitude to the cultivator? Does it return evil for good, cursing for blessing? No, never.

He who feeds the soil according to its wants, and taxes it according to its ability, liberating it from the oppressive hand of up-springing evils, always finds that nature appreciates kindness; and when man blesses her, she smiles upon him with grateful affection, breathes the most agreeable odors in his face, spreads before him the most delicious fruits, and surrounds him with the most beautiful flowers, saying, "These are God's gifts, which are placed at my disposal to entertain and reward my friends. Come now and know my gratitude." C.

Mason, N. H., April, 1851.

For the New England Farmer.

SPRING WORK.

Mr. Cole:—Spring, and particularly the month of May, is a busy and important time to the farmer. The amount and profit of his harvests depend very much upon the manner in which he conducts the farm-operations of this hurrying season. I have a few brief suggestions to offer upon the proper mode of executing a part of the work of Spring, and if you think they can be of service to any body, you can use them for that purpose.

The first and the great point, in attempting to grow renumerating crops here in New England, is, to manure the land well; and if we cannot bring our minds to this, and govern our operations accordingly, we may as well quit farming and go at something else,—for without a liberal application of manure, our primitive and barren soils will not afford us a living. I cannot, at this time, go into the particulars about making manure, for I have neither time nor room to do so; but perhaps at some future time you may hear from me on the subject.

In the application of manure in the Spring, if it is fine, or is a compost of various materials, and is to be used on land to be broken up from grass, it will work the best if spread on the inverted furrows and thoroughly mixed with the surface by the harrow. If it is to be applied to stubble land, it will be well to turn it under with a shallow furrow. Fine manure produces the best results with me when kept near the surface. If the manure is coarse, or unfermented, it is generally best to plough it in, whether the land to be ploughed be grass or stubble land. Manuring in the hill, exclusively, is not good farming. It may produce a good first crop, and the natural strength of the soil may give good crops for the rest of the rotation; but this process soon ends, and sterility succeeds. The only way we can improve land, or keep it stationary as to productiveness, is by giving it liberal broadcast dressings of manure. Otherwise, if we crop it year after year, we surely reduce it as to fertility. If we fail to return to our soil an equivalent for what we carry off in our crops, the time soon comes when we are emphatically reminded of our parsimony. That time is especially when we try to seed the land to grass; for we if have been niggardly towards it, we find it difficult to obtain a good catch of the seed; or, if it starts at all, it forms but a feeble sward, and the crops of hay are light.

In ploughing up grass-land for planting in the Spring, the work should be nicely done; for on that the amount of the crop will considerably depend. Baulks, crooked or imperfectly turned furrows, should therefore find no favor. Some ploughmen are very much afraid of turning up a little of the yellow dirt below; and they therefore use the plough, year after year, in an invariably shallow furrow, thus often forming a hard crust, within four or five inches of the surface of the ground, through which the roots of plants cannot penetrate. Not being able to range much below the surface, these roots, in a dry time, fail to supply the growing plant with mositure, and the harvest is in consequence light. I have derived much benefit from a gradual deepening of the surface soil. At each breaking up of the sward I bring up an inch or two of the poor substratum, expose it to the meliorating action of the atmosphere, mix my compost manure with it, and thus so far improve it that it makes a valuable addition to the depth of the surface soil. I can now take a furrow of eight on nine inches deep, of uniform and good quality; and in a dry season I particularly see the benefit in the superior greenness and luxuriance of the crops. Shallow furrows, therefore, form no part of my farming.

In the hurry of spring work, there is too great a disposition to harrow the ground slightly. This is not true economy. If the harrowing be that of green-sward furrows for planting, the planting and first hoeing certainly will be more expeditiously and better done, if the surface has been brought to a fine tilth by the harrow; and the young plants, of whatever kind, will be more forward for it too. So also in regard to grain and grass; if the pulverization had been fine at seeding time, the plants stand thicker, are more vigorous, and the crop is better than would have been the case if the preparation of the soil had been slighted. If land in corn stubble is to be ploughed and stocked down in the Spring, it is well to harrow down the hills with a heavy hinge-harrow, for the ploughing will afterwards be much more easily and perfectly done.

In laying down to grass, the seed should be sown bountifully. Fill the land well with grass-seeds, and the hay will be fine, foul stuff will be shut out, the sward will be thick, the grass-roots numerous, and when the land is broken up for the next rotation, the extra accumulation of vegetable matter in the sward, in consequence of the liberal seeding, will, by its decay, improve the soil very much. Twelve pounds of clover seed, together with ten or twelve quarts of herds-grass and a half bushel of red-top seeds, is none too much seed for an acre of ground. The clover will not make so good hay as the other grasses; but where one's object is in part to improve his soil, clover cannot well be dispensed with in the rotation. It draws a good portion of its nourishment from below the reach of the roots of the small grains and the other grasses; it forms a large mass of vegetable matter near the surface, partly at the expense of those fertilizing matters that are now low down in the soil; and generally decaying at the end of the second year, the surface soil is thereby enriched. So far as my experience goes, I find barley to be the best grain to sow with grass seed. Oats shade and choke the young grass too much; and if they lodge, they lay flat upon the ground, thus smothering the young grass; while barley seldom falls so flat as to kill the grass. Three bushels of barley is about the right quantity of seed for an acre.

The proper planting of seed in the Spring is a nice operation. This work is quite too apt to be hurried over, without duly considering how much influence it is to have upon the succeeding crop. A desire to plant a large breadth of land in a day, should not so much possess one as a desire to plant well, and give the crop every possible advantage in the outset. So far as I know, planted crops of every name and nature, whether in the field or garden, grow better, and yield better, when planted with better care, than they do when this work is superficially done. Corn will be considerably more forward for being well got in, and will yield more. Potatoes thoroughly planted need little or no hilling afterwards. Indeed, on my land, they do the best where the land is kept about level.

Finally, we farmers labor and toil with the expectation of realizing a profit from our labors; and as a general rule, the largest profits follow the most careful and the highest kind of cultivation. Mother earth is famous for her full and bounteous harvests in return for a liberal and careful husbandry, while she leaves the careless, grudging and parsimonious farmer to shirk for himself as best he can. "Do well whatsoever is to be done," is therefore the true motto in farming. F. Holbrook.

Brattleboro', Vt., April 20, 1851.

TOBACCO DUST,

AS A PROTECTION AGAINST INSECTS.

We last year procured from a snuff mill a barrel of dry, but damaged snuff flour, and prepared drudging boxes, covered with a fine bolting cloth, with which we sifted it over the surfaces of any plants attacked by insects, and with most signal success. The snuff should be applied, if practicable, while the plant is wet with dew, and repeated after every shower. If the boxes are properly made, (like a common flour drudge,) and the snuff is perfectly fine and dry, but little time is necessary to go over an acre of plants. Even the rose bug, cabbage louse, thrips on grape vines, &c., all yield to the influence of snuff, and the most delicate plant of the hot-house is not injured by its application. For field vegetables, caustic lime, made into a fine powder, while dry, and applied before slaking by contact with the air, will produce similar results.

Prof. Mapes.

Nothing Wasted.—The skins used by gold-beaters are produced from the offal of animals. The hoofs of horses and cattle, and other horny refuse, are employed in the production of the prussiate of potash, that beautiful yellow crystallized salt which is exhibited in the shops of chemists. The worn-out saucepans and tin-ware of our kitchens, when beyond the tinker's art, are not utterly worthless. The less corroded parts are cut into strips, punched with small holes, and varnished with a coarse black varnish, for the use of the trunk-maker, who protects the edges and angles of his boxes with them; the remainder are conveyed to the manufacturing chemists, who employ them in making a black dye for calico printers.

☞ To Adam, Paradise was home; to the good among his descendants, home is Paradise.

Mechanics' Department, Arts, &c.

RAZOR STROPS.

Mr. Moore:—It is said that he who makes two blades of grass grow where but one grew before confers a greater benefit on society than all the speculative theorists, from the false prophets of old up to father Miller; and I don't see why he that causes the cutting down of a bad and troublesome growth of human weeds, in a comfortable and expeditious manner, is not also entitled to the meed of praise, and to be elevated another round on the Jacob's ladder of commendation. I am getting on the shady side of three score, and find on calculation that I have cut from my face more than two rods of beard, and sometimes with a most villanous dull razor, which I fear has caused me to add some anathemas to the vocabulary of curses, on cutting edges.

Not having anything else to bequeath to posterity, that they will sensibly feel, do me the favor to publish the following recipe, for renewing or constructing the sharpening properties of a razor strop.

Buy two pennies worth of pummice stone, from the druggist, or paint dealer, in two pieces with flat surfaces; rub these above the strop, letting the dust fall on its surface. When sufficiently covered, invert it to allow any coarse particles to fall off; smooth and rub it down with the blade of a knife, and it is ready for the razor. If the strop is dry and stiff, moisten it, and add a little oil or soft grease before dusting it. If it makes too harsh an edge at first, reverse the manner of stroping from heel to point, to from point to heel, and if proper management and skill is used, it will cut three days under the skin.—*Rural New-Yorker.*

GLAZE FOR COMMON EARTHENWARE.

The glaze usually employed for common kinds of earthenware is compounded of litharge of lead and ground flints, in the proportion of ten parts by weight of the former to four parts of the latter. Cornish granite is sometimes substituted for flint, and used in the proportion of eight parts to ten of litharge. This method of glazing is objectionable, on account of the injury which, notwithstanding every caution that can be taken, it occasions, in its application, to the health of the workmen employed, who frequently are seized with paralysis; and because the lead, which is soluble by means of acids, and highly poisonous, renders vessels thus glazed improper for preparing or containing many articles of human food.

The bad effect of raw glazes upon their health is greatly lessened to the workmen when they can be brought to the frequent use of ablutions. In every pottery the men employed in glazing should be, and in most establishments they are, plentifully supplied with soap, which they are enjoined to use on every occasion of quitting their work. Unfortunately, however, the workmen themselves have become erroneously impressed with a belief in the superior efficacy of ardent spirits in warding off or counteracting the poisonous effects of lead, and fly to the use of this as a specific, to a degree which too often proves, both physically and morally, worse than the evil which it is intended to prevent.

The mixtures just mentioned are called raw glazes; their employment is convenient to the potter because of their cheapness and extreme fusibility. Flint, which remains unaffected in the focus of the most powerful lens, is, when combined with lead, melted and vitrified at a comparatively low heat. The method of using this glaze is to reduce the ingredients to the state of a fine powder, and throw them into as much water as will make them of the consistency of cream. The mixture must be well stirred, that the powders may be kept uniformly blended throughout the fluid. The pieces are first brushed to free them from dust, and then merely dipped into the liquid and withdrawn, when they must be turned rapidly about in all directions, that the glaze may flow equally over the whole surface. The superfluous liquid having been allowed to drain off a few seconds, and the pieces having been set on a board during a few minutes, they are ready for insertion in the seggars.

Chaptal, in his "Chemistry applied to the Arts," has given a process for forming white enamel, which answers well for glazing the superior kinds of earthenware and tender porcelain. Equal parts of lead and tin are kept in fusion until completely oxidated. The powder thus formed is ground with water, all impurities are removed by repeated washings, and being dried it is kept for use. The whitest flints are then chosen, and used with carbonate of potash, the latter being in such proportion to the flint, that the mixture will be soluble in water. To the solution of flint thus made, muriatic acid must, from time to time, be added, until no further precipitation occurs. The precipitate thus obtained is pure silex, which, being washed and dried, is also fit for use. If then one part of this silex, and one part of the metallic oxide, be added to two parts of carbonate of potash, and the whole be fused in a crucible, the mass need only be reduced to a fine powder to prepare it for use in glazing.—*Scientific American.*

LABOR IS CAPITAL.

This adage is strikingly illustrated in a fact that has recently come under our own observation, in the case of the journeymen scale makers, who, some two years ago, without money or other means except their hands and tools, and a good reputation, formed themselves into a company, for the purpose of establishing for themselves a business that was then making others rich, but at merely journeymen's wages, keeping them poor. The result, as might have been expected by those who knew their enterprise, has been exceedingly favorable. The business has continued to increase until their original establishment has become too small for their use, and they have enlarged their factory and are now employing additional hands. They now employ a number of journeymen themselves, whom they pay liberally and promptly. It is said that their sales already amount to more than $25,000 a year, and are constantly increasing. Their manufactory is 43 Green Street, and their warehouse 187 Water Street, in this city. They manufacture every kind of Hay, Floor, Portable Platform, Bank, Gold and Counter Scales, Patent Balances, &c., and every scale made by them is *correct*, and warranted not liable to get out of order. Mr. George G. Sheppard is the sole agent, and we trust their praiseworthy enterprise will be liberally rewarded.—*N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic.*

Ladies' Department.

USES AND ABUSES OF AIR—VENTILATION OF DWELLINGS.

"Buds are breaking, birds are waking,
Time our very breath is taking,
We are jocund, we are drooping;
Shout a welcome, Spring is coming."

We all rejoice in the approach of spring, with its sunshine and showers, its birds and its flowers; but perhaps it would be more warmly greeted if it did not so generally deprive us of the elasticity of mind and vigor of body which have given zest to the enjoyments of autumn and winter, and substitute for them a listlessness and languor which incapacitates for either mental or physical activity, and tends to make us weary of ourselves and all about us. Shall we ascribe this effect to the enervating influence of the warmth and humidity of the atmosphere, and there rest without inquiring whether something may not be done to prevent or diminish this lassitude, inaction, and consequent suffering?

An abundant supply of pure air for the lungs, we believe, would tend greatly to diminish this evil. If you doubt this, we will refresh your memory with a few physiological facts, and support our opinion by quoting a few acknowledged authorities in medical science, showing their estimate of the pernicious effects of foul air upon the system, and the importance of thorough ventilation of our houses.

The blood, in passing through the system, parts with its oxygen, and absorbs so much that is foreign and injurious to the health, that it would in a short time become so clogged and impure as to cease to nourish the system, were it not that in passing through the lungs the blood is exposed to the action of the air which we inhale in breathing, from which it receives fresh oxygen, while it throws off its impurities in the form of carbonic acid gas. Of course when this arterialization is imperfectly effected in consequence either of the deficient quantity or poor quality of the air we breathe, the blood remaining impure cannot properly nourish the body, and the health must suffer.

During the winter the coldness of the air is so exciting and invigorating to the lungs and the entire system, that a smaller volume of air is needed for their support; but when the excitement from cold subsides, if its place is left unsupplied, the system flags, the appetite fails, and lassitude, headache, etc., are the result. Extra care should be taken, therefore, to supply the lungs with an abundance of wholesome air; by active exercise out of doors, forcing them to receive a large amount of the "breath of life," and especially by thorough ventilation of the dwellings, (the sleeping apartments particularly,) prevent the inhalation of confined and deteriorated air.

In one of the "Tracts for the People," published by J. S. Redfield, N. Y., entitled, "Uses and Abuses of Air," the author, in his introductory remarks, says: "Impure air is indeed one of the scourges of mankind, being the direct cause of very many, and an aggravation of *all* the diseases incident to the human frame. No age or sex is exempted from its influences, but especially are they obnoxious to its evils who have adopted or complied with the modern ideas of civilization and refinement."

Dr. Arnott, of England, says: "Our inquiries give us the conviction that the immediate and chief cause of many of the diseases which impair the bodily and mental health of the people, and bring a considerable portion prematurely to the grave, is the poison of *atmospheric impurity*, arising from the accumulation in and around their dwellings of the decomposing remnants of the substances used for food, and in their arts, and of the impurities given out from their own bodies."

In 1832, at Norwood school in England, where there were 600 pupils, scrofula broke out extensively among the children, and carried off great numbers. This was at once ascribed to bad and insufficient food. Dr. Arnott was, however, employed to investigate the matter, and immediately decided that the food was "abundant and good," assigning "*defective ventilation*, and consequent atmospheric impurity," as the true cause. Ventilation was accordingly applied by his direction; the scrofula soon disappeared, and eleven hundred children are now maintained where the six hundred, before a proper system of ventilation was adopted, were scrofulous and sickly.

The celebrated French physician, M. Baudelocque, asserts that "it will invariably be found on examination, that a truly scrofulous disease is caused by a vitiated air, and it is not always necessary that there should have been a prolonged stay in such an atmosphere. Often a few hours each day is sufficient; and it is thus they may live in the most healthy country, pass the greater part of the day in the open air, and yet become scrofulous because of sleeping in a confined place, where the air has not been renewed."

"Sir J. Clark," says the author we first quoted, "who has written the best monograph on consumption in our language, regards the respiration of a deteriorated atmosphere as one of the most powerful causes of tuberculous cachexia, that is, the constitutional affection which precedes the appearance of consumption."

Dr. Say states, "I consider the heated and impure atmosphere of workshops, and a similarly unwholesome state of the dwellings of the poor, as the cause of a large number of diseases in childhood, of inflammation of the lungs, of the febrile affections to which children are so subject, and of those chronic disorders of the bowels which are so apt to terminate in mesenteric disease." Again he says, "The chief cause of the great mortality from pulmonary consumption, is the defective ventilation of houses, shops, and places of work."

One of the series of "Health Tracts," entitled "Breathing Pure Air," estimates that at least 50,000 of those who die annually in the United States, under the age of five years, might be saved, if the time-honored but pernicious practice of half smothering children, whether sleeping or awake, in shawls and blankets, to exclude the free, pure, unadulterated air of heaven, could be abolished. And adds, "Thousands and tens of thousands of others, whose lives extend beyond this period, are yet sufferers from the same cause; and though their natural force of constitution may enable them to live a little longer than those whose constitutions are more feeble, yet are they not more to be pitied!"

It was not our intention when we commenced this article to quote so largely from others, but if you will read and *practice*, we think you will never regret that for once our space was so occupied.

We hope soon to see an article on the best mode of ventilating buildings published in the Cultivator; but meanwhile do not fail to open the windows each morning to secure a thorough change of air, and as soon as the increasing warmth of the atmosphere will permit, keep open during the night some means of ingress to your sleeping apartments, for the external air. If the night air be injurious, (which we do not believe is often the case, certainly not at the height from the ground where it would enter a chamber window,) it cannot well be so deleterious to health as the confined air in which most persons so thoughtlessly sleep. In reference to this point, the author of "Uses and Abuses of Air" says, "We may add that this peculiar *bedroomy odor* is not peculiar to the domitories of servants, for their is not a chamber, however costly its furniture or ample its dimensions, though occupied by the most cleanly and fastidious, that will not exhibit it, *if unventilated*.

The lassitude spoken of at the commencement of this article, we believe to be a minor evil mainly resulting from this prolific source of disease—impure air; and think it might be at least partially prevented by avoiding its cause, and beginning to practice *now*, so as to forestall the approaching warm weather.

The effects of bathing should be mentioned in this connection, but must be deferred till another time.—*Ohio Cultivator*.

EDUCATE YOUR DAUGHTERS.

A writer says:—When I lived among the Choctaw Indians, I held a consultation with one of their chiefs respecting the successive stages of their progress in the arts of civilized life; and among other things he informed me at their first start they fell into a great mistake—they only sent their boys to school.

They became intelligent men, but they married uneducated and uncivilized wives, and the uniform result was, that the children were all like the mother; and soon the father lost his interest in both wife and children. "And now," says he, "if we could educate only one class of our children, we would choose the girls; for when they become mothers, they would educate their sons." This is to the point, and it is true. No nation can become fully and permanently civilized and enlightened, when the mothers are not, to a good degree, qualified to discharge the duties of home education.

Moths in Furniture. — Thoroughly saturate the stuffing of sofas, chairs, &c., by pouring on and in camphine. This may be done without any danger of injury to carpets or clothing, as they are preserved by sprinkling with the same article. I have tried this method of ridding a sofa, which had been stuffed with villanous hair, from thousands of worms and moths. They were instantly destroyed, with out in the least affecting the hair seating or varnish of the wood.—*A writer in the North American*.

An Antidote for Bed Bugs.—Take a quantity of whale oil, and about the same quantity of lard or tallow; simmer them a few minutes together, so that they will mix. Apply the mixture with a feather or fine brush, to the crevices and joints of the bedsteads, and these vermin will not only desert the bed, but will leave the room.

Sarsaparilla Syrup.—Purchase of a druggist of known honesty, fifteen ounces of Para Sarsaparilla; split all the stalks in two lengthwise, and cut in short pieces. Soak it in a gallon of pure water for twenty-four hours, then boil it down to two quarts; strain and add, while boiling, fifteen ounces white sugar; thicken all by a little additional boiling, precisely as you make the syrup of preserves. Here you have two quarts of pure syrup for eighty cents. The dose is from a teaspoonful to a wineglassful, according to age, three times a day; but it would do no harm if taken by the tumblerful; it is not hurtful in any dose. If you make it, you are certain that you get the genuine article—which is very doubtful if you buy it.

Disinfecting Agent.—Rooms in which, from any cause, there arises an unpleasant odor, may be freed of the obnoxious effluvia, by placing a few kernels of coffee on a hot shovel, and allowing the aroma, or smoke, to be freely disseminated. It will dispel effectually the most powerful odor arising from putrid animal or vegetable matter. It has been much used and with excellent success, in localities infected by cholera.

☞ The reason why the world is not reformed is because every man would have others make a beginning, and never thinks of himself.

☞ A promise and its performance, should, like the scales of a true balance, always present a mutual adjustment.

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